

**ABSTRACT**

A method of indicating the length of a mini cells in a mobile telephony network. Non linear coding of a short fixed length field in the header of the mini cell is described. Either an extension bit method or an extension code method is used to extend the length field so as to increase the number of length values available for coding of the mini cell sizes. The length of a mini cell is indicated in the individual mini cell or is indicated indirectly using a CID/length mapping table. Mini cell sizes are changed during a connection and methods are described for doing this. Cell header reading devices for extracting user information of individual mini cells are described. A mobile telephone network using the cell header reading devices is described. (Figure 11).

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